

THE
FAITHFUL SERVANT,
A
MORAL AND RELIGIOUS STORY
FOR CHILDREN.

Faith, Hope, Charity, these three ; but the greatest of these is Charity.—*St. Paul.*



BOSTON
BOWLES & DEARBORN

1829.

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FAITHFUL SERVANT,
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By the Author of 'Tales of the Fireside,' &c.

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of these is Charity.—*St. Paul.*

BOSTON :
BOWLES & DEARBORN.

1828.

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO WIT.

District Clerk's Office.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the 11th day of March, A. D. 1828, in the fifty-second Year of the Independence of the United States of America, Bowles & Dearborn, of the said District, have deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof they claim as proprietors, in the words following, *to wit*:

"The Faithful Servant, a Moral and Religious Story for Children. By the Author of 'Tales of the Fireside,' &c. Faith, Hope, Charity, these three; but the greatest of these is Charity.—*St. Paul.*"

In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled "An act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned." And also to an Act, entitled "An act supplementary to an Act, entitled an Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

JNO. W. DAVIS,

Clerk of the District of Massachusetts.

THE

FAITHFUL SERVANT.

“I have five hundred crowns,
The thrifty hire I saved under your father,
Which I did store to be my foster nurse,
When service should in my old limbs lie lame,—

Take that ! and He that doth the raven feed ;
Yea, providently caters for the sparrow
Be comfort to my age.”

In the county of Calvert, Virginia, and distant from Prince Frederic's Town, about five miles on the banks of the celebrated Chesapeake Bay, lived Mr. and Mrs. Percival, at their beautiful seat called Rosemount. This worthy couple were beloved for their christian piety, virtue, and benevolence, throughout the neighbourhood. Soon after they were settled at Rosemount, a poor widow, who resided near them died, leaving an orphan son about four years old. Mrs. Percival taking compas-

sion on the helpless condition on the poor little fellow, asked her husband's permission to take and bring him up. Mr. Percival ever ready to do good, readily consented ; and William Ennis was taken to their house. Possessing an intelligent mind and a gentle disposition, they became very fond of him, but instead of educating him as a fine gentleman, they taught him to read, and write, and to be useful to the family; thus enabling him at some future period to get his living honestly, as his father did before him. William loved to read his Bible and take care of little Henry and Julia the only children of Mr. and Mrs. Percival—and as they were born after he came into the family, he was old enough to amuse and keep them out of harm's way ; he was aware of his obligations to his Benefactors, and by his affection to their offspring, and obedience to their will, evinced his gratitude to them.

As Henry and Julia Percival grew up, the example of their excellent Parents, the constant reading of the New Testament, which if we obey its mandates cannot fail of procuring us happiness both here and hereafter—

the good Books of all kinds which were judiciously placed in their way, each contributed to make them amiable and virtuous characters, and few parents were more blest and fortunate in their offspring than Mr. and Mrs. Percival. Accompanied by their children, they frequently sought the abodes of misery and want, relieving the sufferings of the worthy poor, and endeavoring to reform the indolent and vicious, and were often as successful in the latter as in the former ; Julia, Henry, and even William Ennis taking turns to read the bible to them.

Mr. Percival had early adopted the excellent custom of having family prayer, and himself and household never slept, 'till on their knees they had thanked Heaven for its mercies, and implored the continuance of God's goodness. After which, a hymn was sung. The following excellent verse was one of the first that was impressed upon the memory of the young people :

“ Teach me to feel another’s woe,
To hide the fault I see ;
That mercy I to others show ;
That mercy show to me.”

Julia Percival was now in her eighteenth year, beloved by her family for her filial and fraternal affection, for her kindness to the domestics, and charity to the poor and unworthy, and had already created a character for herself. The Reverend Charles Merton, an amiable young clergyman who presided over the congregation at Fredericstown, the nearest parish church, and where Mr. Percival attended with his family, observing the modest and pious demeanor of Miss Percival and hearing that she was really as amiable as she appeared to be, said mentally, "what an excellent wife she would make for a clergyman" and to do Charles Merton justice, we must say that though Julia Percival possessed a large share of personal beauty, this was the least of her attractions in his eyes ; it was her moral excellence that had charmed him with the wish of obtaining her as his companion for life. He therefore asked her parents' permission to address her, and he being in every respect worthy of her, they consented, and it was not long e'er convinced of his worth, the amiable Julia Percival became the wife of the Reverend Charles Merton. Her

affectionate father and mother felt that in the union of their beloved daughter with so worthy a young man, they were amply repaid for the pains and expense they had bestowed on the cultivation of her mind and morals.

Julia had been the wife of Charles Merton four years and in that time God had blessed them with two children, their union had hitherto been unclouded, but perfect bliss is not allotted to man. Henry Percival was in his twenty-fourth year when they were deprived of their excellent parents, who died within a short time of each other as if it were the will of Heaven that they should not long be separated, their loss was deeply lamented by their weeping children and dependants and all who had the happiness to number them among their friends, but by none more than William Ennis.

The family of the deceased consoled themselves for their death with the comforting reflection, that they had gone to reap the reward of their virtues in realms beyond the sky where they would inherit a glorious immortality. William felt that the most proper way to show his respect to the memory of his late benefactors, was to remain with their son.

Henry Percival was at the time of his parents decease, on the eve of being united in marriage with a very amiable young Lady, Miss Emily Temple of Richmond, but their union was now postponed till a proper time had been devoted to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Percival, after which they were married, and the amiable young Lady whose only dowry was her virtues and her beauty was soon settled at Rosemount.

Years rolled on, in which the two families of Percival and Merton enjoyed the most perfect happiness that it is possible for beings to possess in this "vale of tears," but alas ! the cup of sweetness must be dashed with bitterness; thus in the happiness and blessings of this life, we should not neglect to prepare for time and eternity, and the promises we have of a blissful futurity.

The Rev. Mr. Merton died after a short and distressing illness, which, being blessed with the consolations of religion, he bore with christian fortitude and gave up his immortal spirit into the hands of his Redeemer without a murmur leaving a disconsolate widow and seven children to mourn his loss, they were but in-

differently provided for, as the salary of a clergyman in those days in Virginia was only sufficient for the support of a family while he was living ; the income ceasing at his death, left them nothing but their clothing furniture and the trifling dowry that was all Mr. Percival, who was not rich—could bestow on his daughter ; this was not sufficient for the support of the family, and as the new incumbent was in haste to take possession of the parsonage, poor Mrs. Merton was quite in distress to know how to proceed ; her health being delicate, she was the less able to bear up against the hand of sorrow and adversity. She thought of her Brother who resided five miles distant from *Fredericstown*, and who at that time of her husband's death was too ill to attend the funeral. But it instantly occurred to her that she could not expect assistance from him, whose own family was rapidly increasing, he having already four children, could not be expected to receive herself and numerous family. It was impossible ; she sat musing on her unfortunate condition till prayer time, and then summoning her household to the parlour said before she knelt.

"I must not despair, will not 'He that doth the raven feed, yea, providently caters for the sparrow' protect myself and innocent offspring, I know he will," and here she said aloud, "O ! Lord humbly on my knees I implore the continuance of thy blessings, grant me grace to do thy will, teach me submission to thy chastisements, give me strength to bear the burdens that in thy judgment thou hast seen fit to impose upon me, and O, Lord and father of mercies dispose of me and mine as thou wilt, and I will bend in meek submission to thy decrees, Amen."

In this short but fervent address to Deity. Mrs. Merton was joined with great piety and zeal by her children and servants by whom she was most tenderly beloved, and they all arose from their knees with hearts much lightened of their sorrows, and retired to rest, with a firm reliance on the goodness of a merciful God.

On the following morning the sun which shines alike on the thoughtless happy being, and the sorrowing mourner, shone forth with resplendent splendor, all was life and animation save the heart of the widow and fatherless children, the orb of day shot his bright beams

between the opening of the snowy curtains of Mrs. Merton's bed, and awakened her from a transient forgetfulness of her misfortunes. She was feeble, but it having ever been a custom of her's to rise early, considering it conducive to health and happiness to get up with the sun, she struggled for a moment with her feelings, and then arose from her bed, and arousing her family ; as soon as they were dressed, assembled again at prayer.

After breakfast while she was endeavouring to arrange some plan of operations for the future, her eldest son Henry came in.

"Mamma" said he "Uncle Percival's carriage has just turned the corner, and is coming here."

"And see" said Charles, "here it is mamma and William Ennis with a one horse chaise what does it mean?"

"I do not know" said Mrs. Merton, rising to meet her beloved brother who affectionately embraced her, while the silent tears traced each other down his manly cheek.

"Come Julia," said he, "get yourself and children ready, and William will take some of them in the chaise and the others can go in the carriage with you."

"But where are we to go my dear brother," asked Mrs. Merton in some surprise.

"Why to Rosemount," sister, replied Mr. Percival, "where else would you go."

"But dear Henry" continued Mrs. Merton, "how can I think of carrying such a parcel of children to Rosemount? and your own family so numerous."

"Never mind that child," said her brother, trying to smile and look cheerful "if it were not ungenteel to do so, I would say as does the old adage, "*the more the merrier.*" Come lose, no time my dear sister, for Mrs. Percival expects you, and will be disappointed if you do not arrive soon. I will remain here and settle matters with the new Rector, and with the assistance of your faithful Ellen, will pack up your furniture and you can send the carriage back for us, therefore, said he hurrying her off, the sooner you are away and with my Emily the better."

"Bless you and your Emily also," said the weeping Mrs. Merton, as she rode from the scene of her late happiness, towards the abode of her excellent brother, where she was received with every possible demonstration of kindness by the amiable Mrs. Percival.

The carriage returned to Fredericstown for Mr. Percival, who had placed his sister's furniture in safe keeping at a ware-house, put her trunks of clothing on a cart, and had them conveyed to Rosemount.

Mr. Percival having ascertained the exact amount of the late Mr. Merton's property, was shocked for his sisters and her families sake, to find it was so trifling, as to be of little or no consequence to them—Seeing that her health was so feeble, he tried to conceal the fact from her, but she was so urgent to know the truth that he was compelled to tell it to her.

Alas! poor Julia, in spite of her exertions to struggle against the tide of misfortune that overwhelmed her, she partially sunk beneath it. The loss of her beloved husband, and the miserable prospect before her, a widow with seven children, and nothing, or little more than that, left for their support, it was too much for her to contend with, and she became alarmingly ill, her life was long suspended by a tie "as attenuated as the spiders thread," but through the affectionate attention, of her brother, his

kind hearted wife and her children, she, with the will of God, at length recovered her health in some measure, but was still too weak to attempt doing any thing for their support, she proposed opening a school for young ladies at Fredericstown.

Mr. Percival told her she must not think of this till her health was entirely restored, and seeing that her dependent situation was distressing to her, he proposed her taking charge of the education of his and her own children, and this would relieve her mind for the present from the painful idea of being a burthen to him.

Mrs Merton gladly accepted the offer, and the children of the two families formed quite a school, and being as I have before said, quite an accomplished woman was, when well enough to attend to them, perfectly equal to the task of instruction.

That "the ways of heaven are dark and intricate," is a trite remark, they are, it is true inscrutable, and beyond the feeble comprehension of man, and not to be questioned by him. Our only remedy is a meek submission to the will of God, with a perfect reliance on his

goodness and mercy “ who does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men,” and it will invariably be found that however dark our path appears and its terminations to us uncertain, that God who feeds the Raven and clothes the lilly of the Valley, will if we deserve it, give us a safe and holy keeping, and a balm for every wound.

It was the pleasure of the Almighty to afflict the family of the worthy Mr. Percival further, for sorrow seldom comes alone, and we shall see that these trials were for their benefit.

Soon after Mrs. Merton and her family took up their abode at Rosemount, Mr. Percival’s agent announced the failure of a Banker at Frederickstown, in whose hands was vested all his property, and except an old Mansion, called Moncton which once belonged to his grandfather Colonel Egbert. Every thing was lost to him completely, the blow was a heavy one, particularly now that he had so large a family depending upon him ; and for a short time he felt stunned by it ; but being a christian he turned his heart inwardly to God, and convinced that this affliction was intended for

some good purpose, he bore it patiently.— He first sold his Carriage and Horses, then his Plate, after which he disposed of his Library, except such books as were necessary for the use of his children. Soon after which that the cup of sorrow might be filled to the brim, their youngest child, their darling little Emily was taken from them, for death had nipped this sweet flower of promise in its very bud.

Mrs. Percival was excessively grieved at the loss of her lovely infant, but seeing the misfortunes that bore so heavily upon her husband, and observing also how patiently he submitted to them, she forebore to complain.

“Emily” said he to her one day “your brow looks occasionally clouded, but I never hear a word of complaint, how is this my love?”

“Why should I complain said she of the loss of fortune, I brought you none dear Henry, and therefore have no right to murmur.”

“Which is a consolation that all who marry from pure affection deserve” said Mr. Percival, “but my dear wife you brought me children which are greater blessings, and it has pleased God to take one of them from us.”

“True,” said Mrs. Percival and she could

not restrain her tears, ‘the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord’ and I submit myself to his holy will.”

“I thank God my Emily” said he, embracing her, “that it has pleased him to bless you with such a frame of mind; in my opinion this is a greater treasure than the mines of Golconda could bestow, a mind which bends itself in meek submission to the will of Heaven must eventually meet its reward, if not here assuredly hereafter.”

Mrs. Percival dried her tears, and then said.

“I have been thinking dear Henry that as Mr. Archer has a fancy for Rosemount, it would be a good plan to let him have it.

What? said Mr. Percival, sell my paternal estate, surely Emily you do not mean so.

“I do not propose your selling it by any means,” replied she, “but you might rent it to him, and the money would be of importance in the support of our’s and Julia’s family, and if fortune should smile upon us again you could live in it at some future period.”

“But my dear” answered Mr. Percival, “where are we to reside in the mean time.”

"At Moncton House replied she."

Her husband looked more than ever surprised.

"Why Emily" said he "can you be serious in this proposal?"

Certainly she replied, and as dinner was announced at that moment they were joined by the family ; after grace had been pronounced and they were seated at table, he said with a good humoured smile to his sister.

"Julia what do you think my wife has been proposing?"

"Something very rational I have no doubt," said Mrs. Merton, "she is incapable of doing otherwise."

"There's for you Emily you have my sister on your side before hand." Mrs. Percival smiled her thanks at Mrs. Merton, who inquired what the scheme was.

"Why said her brother, she thinks I had better let Mr. Archer hire Rosemount, and for us to remove to Moncton."

"What ! exclaimed the young people simultaneously the Haunted House as it is called."

"Yes said Mrs. Merton, and I think it is an excellent plan, I have not been in it for many

years, but have no doubt it might with little trouble and at a very trifling expense be made a very comfortable residence."

"Papa" said Henry Percival "do you believe there are any ghosts at Moncton?"

"No my child I do not, neither do I believe they are to be met with on earth, those spirits that are happy in the realms of bliss, do not wish to revisit the earth, and if there be any in torments they will not be permitted to leave the place of punishment, and those who pretend to say they have seen such things, must have bewildered imaginations and disordered understandings.

"How far is Moncton from Rosemount? inquired Emily Merton."

"About three miles, said her uncle, and has been shut up ever since the death of my grandfather who was killed during the revolution, he was immensely rich, continued Mr. Percival, but dying without a will, my mother who was his only child obtained but a small portion of his property. A short time before he left Calvert for the purpose of joining General Washington and his troops at Yorktown, he turned every thing he could dispose of in-

to money to secure it but what became of it my mother never knew, but remembered perfectly well that he had two coffers full of gold and silver, when he left Moncton."

"Brother, said Mrs. Merton do you not intend to remove there ? it might be made habitable I think."

"I fear not said Mr. Percival, there is no cellar under it, the floor being only separated from the earth beneath it by the beams which support it, and it is within two feet of the floor, of course it must be damp—I recollect that Mr. Osborn made that objection to it some years ago."

"But if it were well aired, and carpets laid down, said Mrs. Percival, that evil would be remedied."

William Ennis who was the family Oracle, was asked his opinion and gave it decidedly in favour of Moncton, "saying that he had been over it with Mr. Percival's father a short time previous to his death, and thought it a pity that so valuable a dwelling should remain so long untenanted."

"Well children said Mr. Percival, what do you say to living in Moncton, shall you be

willing to go there ? they all broke out together saying."

"O ! yes we will go any where with dear papa and mamma, with good Aunt Emily, Aunt Julia and our dear Uncle."

Finding it was the general wish they set about it, the repairs were soon made, and such furniture as was absolutely necessary, was carried to Moncton ; the rest was sold to Mr. Archer, who immediately hired Rosemount, the family removed to it after dismissing all their domestics, except Ellen, Mrs. Merton's maid, and the faithful and affectionate William Ennis, who would not have gone if they had desired them, to do so for they were too much attached to the family to have been happy elsewhere, and Mr. and Mrs. Percival were among the rare instances in that State averse to holding slaves, thinking it a sin to barter for human flesh and blood. William told Mr. Percival that himself and his father had been so generous to him that he should not accept wages from him under his present circumstances ; saying that he had more money than he should ever spend, Mr. Percival acceeded

to his wishes finding that the heart of his *faithful servant* was set upon it.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Percival as well as those of Mrs. Merton became perfectly satisfied that there were no ghosts at Moncton, and the elder boys assisted by William Ennis procured slips of the gardener at Rosemount, in the fall of the year and on the following spring the sweet briar and eglantine were seen trained over the entrance, and filling the house with the most delightful perfume ; rose bushes grew beneath the windows, the elm and maple trees which shaded it from the sun, were nicely trimmed and Moncton began to look quite comfortable. It was really a pleasant sight to see the little girls with their necks and arms defended from the heat of the sun and sun bonnets on, and the boys with their thin clothes and straw hats at work in their little gardens, and weeding them so nicely, when they had done their tasks under the care of Mrs. Merton.

The parents of these charming children convinced that nothing promotes health and happiness like industry and early rising, encour-

aged both, and a more healthy and happy family is seldom seen —The loss of the little Emily was replaced by another smiling cherub and the sunshine of content and happiness again illumined their dwelling.

The greatest drawback to the comfort and satisfaction of Mr. Percival, his wife and sister was their innability to educate their eldest sons, as they could wish ; and as they grew older and increased in size, they found it the more difficult to supply their wants. Mr. Percival his sons and nephews assisted by William Ennis, cultivated the grounds about Moncton, and raised all the fruit and vegetables they used in the family, and there were no peas, beans, radishes or sallads better than their's, and as for strawberries and other fruit they had them in abundance, so that during the summer season they did very well, but when cold weather set in, warm clothing and fuel were wanting though their winters there are much milder than ours—still Mr. Percival felt sensible how inadequate, his means were to the support of his numerous family, consisting of seventeen persons, domestics included.

Mrs. Merton again talked of taking a school

at Fredericstown, but Mrs. Percival could not bear to part with her—Ellen found she had enough to do to wash and iron for the family and in assisting William who was a man of all trades in cooking and Mrs. Percival's time was much occupied in taking care of her infant, and superintending her household affairs while Mrs. Merton had the management of the children, and the needlework of the family to attend to.

Notwithstanding the delicacy with which these ladies had been educated, they were at last compelled to perform the most menial offices, for Ellen's mother being dangerously ill, she had to leave them for a short time.

Mrs. Percival exerted herself beyond her strength, and worn out with fatigue and anxiety which she laboured to conceal from her husband, at length began to look ill, the watchful eye of affection discovered her indisposition ; but not until too late to prevent its ravages, she was confined to her bed with a fever. Now it was that Mr. Percival truly felt the heavy hand of affliction, the loss of fortune, the change in his situation from comparative wealth to downright indigence, the

loss of friends and the death of his child, were all as grains of sand upon the sea shore in comparison to the prospect which presented itself of losing his amiable and beloved companion, his wife and the angel mother of his children; and what helped to increase his misery tenfold, was his inability to supply her with those many little luxuries and delicacies which are so necessary for a sick room.

One day William Ennis finding his *young master*, as he always called Mr. Percival, setting musing in a melancholy mood, very respectfully begged permission to speak a few words to him, and then informed him that he had a second time dreamed the dream that he had before related to him, and about which he had laughed at him so much, and thought there was something singular in it—"Why my good William" said Mr. Percival. "I perfectly remember your relating your dream the next morning, after we removed here, and after all it is only the repetition of a dream, and not worthy of notice, is that all you have to talk to me about ? continued he.

"No sir it is not," replied Ennis, "I want to say something else to you my dear *young master* but fear you will take offence at it.

"Speak my good friend said Mr. Percival, do not fear to offend me, depend upon it I shall not take offence where none is intended, you have proved yourself a friend and as such I consider you."

"I thank you sir," said William, the tears starting to his eyes which he bent to the ground while he spoke—"My dear lady is sick, things go sadly against you sir, I have no one to call upon me for bread, and having realized a handsome sum of money through the generosity of your late father and yourself, I beg you to do me the favour to let me lend it to you, it is more than I can ever spend, and if I should grow old and not have wherewith to make me comfortable, 'he who feeds the raven and clothes the lilly of the valley' will not let me suffer."

"Mr. Percival shook William affectionately by the hand, thanked him kindly for his generous offer, but told him that he had written to Mr. Archer who resided at Fredericstown during the winter season, and had proposed the sale of Rosemount on such terms as he thought he could not refuse; but promised William that if he did not close the bargain

soon he would accept of a small loan ; and Ennis left his master's presence with his heart lightened of a burden, for he had long wished to make this proposal to him.

Mr. Percival began to grow impatient at the tedious delay of Mr. Archer ; for he was extremely anxious to procure some little comforts for his beloved wife, but William anticipating the wishes of his master hired a horse, and taking a basket, repaired to Fredericks-town, and bought some currant jelleys, some oranges and lemons, a bottle or two of old wine, some fresh oatmeal and a pot of honey, and these were except the wine, the very articles that were wanted.

The hearts of Mrs. Merton and her brother were too full for utterance, and with looks of gratitude and affection, they silently thanked the *faithful servant* and considered this conduct of his as the reward of their beloved parents' virtue and of their kindness to William Ennis.

Mr. Percival was almost in despair, no news had yet arrived from Mr. Archer—and his wife daily grew worse. One evening she called him to her bed side and thus addressed him.

" My dear Henry I believe my dissolution to be fast approaching, and it will gratify me to see my beloved family assembled together once more before I depart this life."

" Do not talk so dearest Emily," said her afflicted husband, pressing her thin white hand between his own, " I hope it may please God to grant you to me some time longer, or he will take us both together."

" You must not murmur my beloved husband said Mrs. Percival, if it should be his will to take me from you, but live to take care of our dear offspring."

Mr. Percival seeing that she was exhausted promised to comply with her request, and closing the curtains of the bed she fell into a gentle slumber from which she did not awake till prayer time, when the whole family repaired to her bed room, that she might join in it with them. With an aching heart and throbbing temples, Mr. Percival requested their attention and kneeling at the throne of grace prayed aloud with great devotion and humility, that it might please his Creator to spare his beloved wife to him, but that if this were not his pleasure to give him strength to bear

the weight of his dispensations for numberless must his offences be, to call forth so much of the Almighty's wrath. He begged forgiveness of his faults, and committing the destinies of himself and family into the hands of an all wise Deity arose from his kneeling posture with the conviction that whatever were his merits or demerits, justice and mercy would be shown him, if not here at least hereafter, and seeing that Mrs. Percival had fallen asleep he sent his weeping family except Mrs Merton quietly to bed, and they sat up with her to watch the fatal progress of disease and death. Her sleep was so profound that her unhappy husband and sister held their ears to her mouth to listen if she breathed, for nature seemed as if its functions were suspended—towards morning however a profuse perspiration appeared upon her hitherto burning skin, and breathing every moment more strongly, she at length gave a deep drawn sigh which seemed as if it had burst the bands of death asunder, and opening her languid eyes, she smiled affectionately on her husband and his sister and made an effort to hold out an hand to each—Dr. Wilmot was at this moment an-

nounced and informed them that the crisis of the disorder had taken place during the night, and that she would now recover if they were careful to prevent a relapse, and great was William's delight when he heard that the Dr. said they might give her some weak wine and water, if the former was good—a bottle of it was brought in, and Dr. Wilmot pronounced it excellent, and here was a fresh proof of the worth of their *faithful servant*—great was the joy of Mrs. Percival's family, at her promised recovery and they returned thanks to the Almighty for his mercy.

After breakfast the young people having gone to the school room, while Mr. Percival was consulting with his sister on the arrangements for the day, William Ennis made his appearance with a countenance full of intelligence and in the presence of the latter before whom it had never been spoken of 'till now, for it was told to Mr. Percival alone—he related that a third time he had been visited by the before mentioned extraordinary dream, Mrs. Merton requested him to relate it to her which he did in the following words.

"I went to bed very unhappy about my lady madam, and in the course of the night I dreamed that we were all in great distress, my lady being dead we not having the means to bury her and the young folks were crying with hunger, when I thought suddenly some one shook me roughly by the elbow, I turned and found that it was the same old gentleman that I dreamed of before, only I thought he looked more angry than he did in my other two dreams."

" You deserve to be naked and hungry too if you are too lazy to take up the hearth in the south parlor" said he and I thought he shook his gold headed cane at me and spoke so loud and angrily it woke me with a violent palpitation of the heart.

" What sort of a looking person was he ? said Mrs. Merton," he was not quite so tall as your brother Ma'am, but a much thicker set man, his complexion was ruddy and he wore a full bottomed wig very much powdered.

Mr. Percival and his sister stared at one another incredulously.

" How was he dressed? said they both."

"In a full suit of claret colored cloth very much wrought with gold lace, a three cornered hat under his left arm, and a gold headed cane in his right hand, over which fell a rich lace ruffle, I am sure he frightened me so I shall always remember his looks as long as I live."

Henry said Mrs. Merton you know who the description answers.

"Certainly replied he it is that of our maternal grandfather, and I must confess that I think it is a singular coincidence."

"William said Mrs. Merton did you ever see a miniature picture of my grandfather which I have in my possession."

"No ma'am" replied Ennis, and they believed him for he was too good a man to utter a falsehood."

Bring it down Julia said Mr. Percival—She brought it immediately and the moment William cast his eyes upon it his countenance changed from red, to white, and with a look of recognition he exclaimed "It is the very same person "

Accordingly they prepared to raise the hearth in the south room, as secretly as possible and to prevent the children from witnes-

sing their *folly* as Mr. Percival termed it, Mrs. Merton went to the school-room to keep them employed till the examination was over, and left Ellen who had returned to attend to Mrs. Percival.

In the mean time William procured a pair of pickaxes and as I have before remarked the beams or joists that supported the floor, rested upon the ground, and the marble hearth rested also on the joists, they had therefore no difficulty in raising it. Judge of their astonishment my young reader, on finding two coffers sunk considerably into the ground by their own weight, and filled one with gold, the other with silver coins, between the coffers was laid a quantity of valuable plate and in a silver basket was found the will of their grandfather, Col. Egbert, however they silently removed them, when William observed that there were several pieces of gold and silver coin laying half sunk in the earth and procuring a spade, began to dig, and found loose change to the amount of nearly a hundred pounds which he carried to his master, who was in the parlor with Mrs. Merton to whom he was relating the joyful news.

"Keep it my good William said Mr. Percival it will pay you for your last year's services, and the basket of nice things you bought for Mrs. Percival, if it had not been for your perseverance I should never have discovered this treasure and it was doubtless intended that you should be benefited by it, else my grandfather would have visited me in a dream instead of yourself."

They concluded to keep this affair a secret till Mrs. Percival was better able to hear it.

Mr. Archer at length made up his mind to purchase Rosemount and came to Moncton for that purpose, the very day the treasure was discovered and evidently intended to take every advantage of Mr. Percival's distress and was not a little chagrined to find that his landlord finding him so slow in making up his determinations, had altered his intentions, and instead of making a bargain with him, politely informed Mr. Archer that Rosemount must be vacated so soon as convenient, it being his intention to remove to it himself early the ensuing spring.—The chagrin and disappointment of that gentleman was only equalled by his surprize and curiosity. The latter was not gratified till after Mr. Percival removed to

Rosemount, and had placed the money and plate in a safe situation for Moncton being rather a lonely place they thought it dangerous to have it known that it contained so much wealth.

The will of Colonel Egbert was not disputed, and his immense estates were soon claimed and recovered by his rightful heirs. Mr. Percival shared the property equally between himself and sister who becoming attached to Moncton had it newly fitted up, and a cellar dug under it, which William having commenced found some more small pieces of silver which were of course decided to belong to himself, he being no longer considered as a domestic divided his time between the two families and went among their children by the name of Grandpa Ennis, and lived to a good old age, beloved by all that knew him, thus enjoying the reward of virtue which will ever be the lot of a faithful servant.

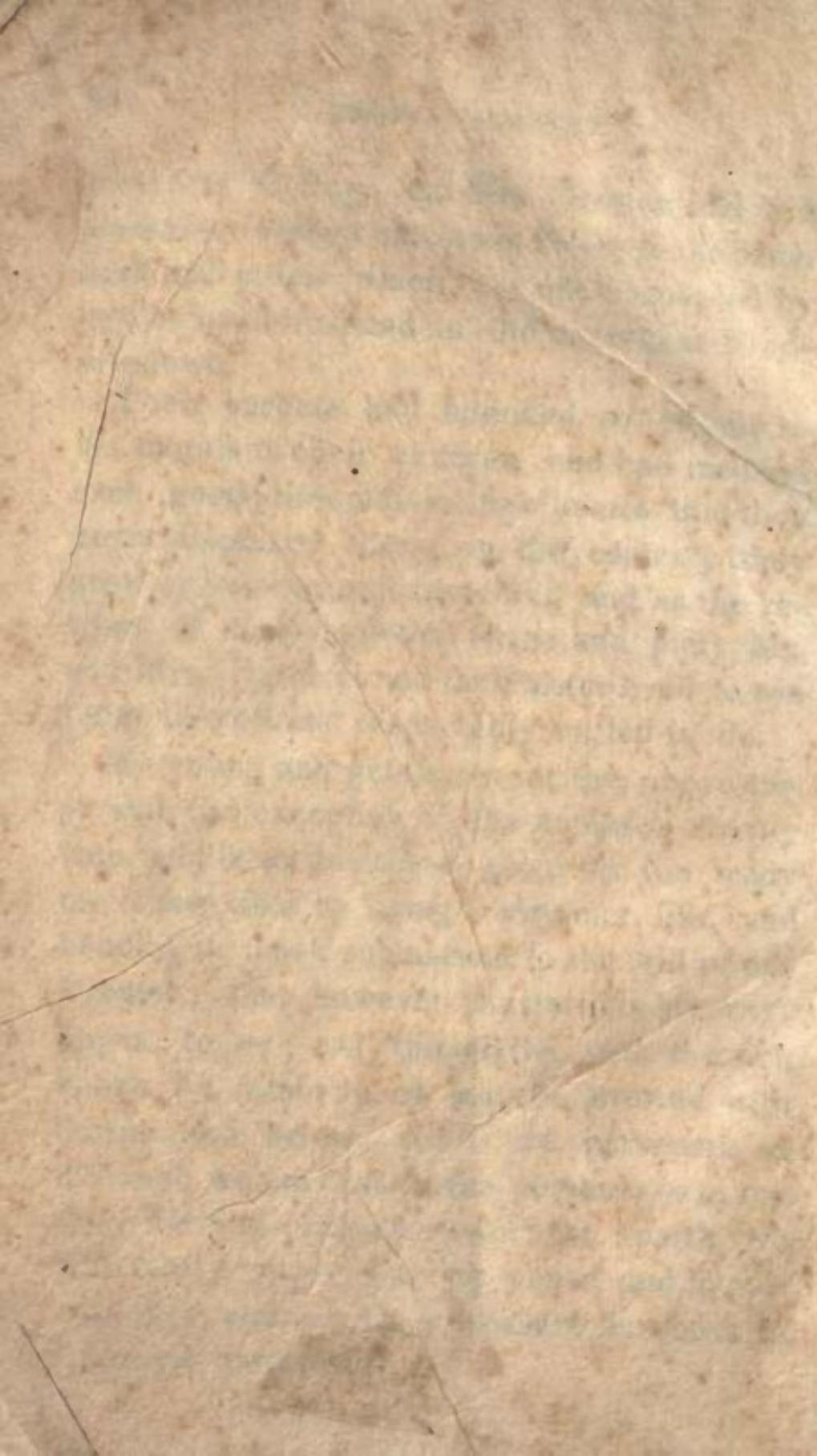
Mr. and Mrs. Percival and their family at Rosemount and Mrs. Merton and her family at Moncton, were able to live in greater splendor than they ever did before, and both having carriages and horses could visit each other often and Mr. Percival's three sons were ed-

ucated in College and Mrs. Merton had the pleasure to see her eldest son Henry in the same desk and pulpit which was once occupied by her beloved husband in the church at Fredericstown.

Their parents had attended so closely to the morals of their children and had instilled such good principles in their hearts that they never disgraced them, on the contrary they grew up beloved and respected and as the reward of their patience virtue and piety, Mr. and Mrs. Percival and their sister lived to see them all well and respectably settled in life.

My young and gentle reader the above story with the exception of the names is strictly true, and is an additional proof to the many on record, that by living a virtuous life, and bending in meek submission to the will of our Creator ; that however mysterious his ways appear to us ; and though the path through which he conducts us may be strewed with thorns and briars, still if we persevere in it though we may not as the personages in my story did find a treasure under the hearth, we shall reap a richer harvest, peace and happiness here, and a greater treasure hereafter in a glorious immortality.





Boys 2nd year

